



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies.

For more information, please contact Michelle Rich at mrch@sppg.com or Burke Milnes at bmilnes@sppg.com and 515.243.2000.

In this issue:

- » **Update from Iowa's Afterschool Network Coordinator**
- » **Celebrate Summer Learning Day June 21**
- » **Engaging Older Youth: Program and City-Level Strategies to Support Sustained Participation in Out-of-School Time**
- » **A Strategic Plan for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Education in Iowa**
- » **Request for City Comments on Proposed Changes to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Initiative**
- » **New Resource on OST Programming for Older Youth: The CBASS After-School Apprenticeship Program Toolkit**
- » **Federal Child Nutrition Funds Supporting School-Age Programs**
- » **Where are the Kids? Key Facts on the Care Arrangements of School-Age Children**
- » **National City Afterschool Summit Hosted in April a Success**
- » **Transcript Available for National League of Cities' March 2010 Audio-conference on Older Youth**
- » **Funding and Professional Development Opportunities**

Update from the Iowa Afterschool Network Coordinator

I guess you could call May a month of transitions. Yes, this update is just from me, Michelle. Our former coordinator, Brooke Findley, has moved on to the [Chrysalis Foundation](#). She will be missed, but I wish her well. The Chrysalis Foundation is an important partner of the IAA's, so we will continue to work closely as the afterschool movement advances forward.

Not only is the IAA transitioning, but programs across the state are transitioning from the school year to summer. It's always exciting, but always somewhat uncomfortable, as well. I'm looking forward to facing this period of transition with you. I'm here for advice, a conversation, or a laugh. Burke Milnes, an AmeriCorps VISTA working with the IAA, is also here for you. Let us know your plans for summer; we love to hear what's going on across the state. Remember – no matter who holds the title of network coordinator, the IAA is always here for you. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Michelle Rich
IAA Network Coordinator

Celebrate Summer Learning Day June 21

On Monday, June 21, join communities throughout the nation and observe [Summer Learning Day](#), a national celebration of programs that serve the unique needs of their communities by engaging kids in fun, active learning during the summer months. This is a great opportunity to shine a spotlight on how your program supports kids and families and to honor your community partners.



Visit the National Summer Learning Association's website at www.summerlearning.org/SLD to learn more about Summer Learning Day, [register your event](#) and find [resources to help you plan](#) including [free webinars](#). You can also hold your own event anytime during the summer. Do not forget to register on the NSLA website by June 18. For more information, contact Susanne Sparks at susanne@summerlearning.org.

Engaging Older Youth: Program and City-Level Strategies to Support Sustained Participation in Out-of-School Time

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance recognizes that keeping youth of all ages engaged in programming is a common challenge. With support from [The Wallace Foundation](#), [P/PV](#) and the [Harvard Family Research Project](#) conducted a study of almost 200 out-of-school time (OST) programs in six cities to better understand how they promote sustained participation among older youth. The resulting data indicated that two of the most important practices distinguishing high-retention programs were: ample leadership opportunities for youth and high levels of staff efforts to keep informed about participants' lives outside the programs.

The study also compares and contrasts effective practices for middle school- versus high school-aged youth, noting the shortcomings of "one-size-fits-all" strategies. Finally, *Engaging Older Youth* details the influence of city-level OST initiatives on programs and identifies the types of city-level services that likely support participation.

To read the full report, click [here](#). To read an accompanying *Research Synopsis*, click [here](#). As interest in expanded learning opportunities for older youth increases, the IAA hopes these findings can give afterschool providers, as well as city leaders, guidance for improving existing recruitment and retention strategies.

A Strategic Plan for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Education in Iowa

On May 13, 2010, leaders from across private and public sectors came together in central Iowa with the task of developing a unified vision for STEM education. Outstanding programs spanning pre-K through high school to college and beyond pepper the state, though opportunities may not be universally available and sometimes overlap. A planning team representing the Iowa Department of Education, the private industry sector of Iowa and the Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Partnership (IMSEP) convened this kick-off meeting that will lead to a virtual community doing the bulk of the work online. If you are interested in this work, email imsep@uni.edu.

Request for City Comments on Proposed Changes to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Initiative

Recently, the U.S. Department of Education released [A Blueprint for Reform: The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#). Included in this blueprint are the Administration's proposed changes to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative. Most notable and potentially harmful to afterschool are the proposals to reduce the funding for 21st CCLC by \$13 million in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposal, and to switch 21st CCLC from a formula grant to competitive grants and open the funding to programs beyond 21st CCLC. Under the current Administration proposal, 21st CCLC funding would be consolidated to share the same funding stream as extended day programs and community schools. These changes could translate into a complete loss of funds for 21st CCLC in Iowa.

The National League of Cities' Youth, Education and Families Institute is planning to submit a compiled list of comments from city leaders to the Department of Education on the proposed changes to 21st CCLC. Please send your comments to Bela Shah Spooner at shah@nlc.org.

New Resource on OST Programming for Older Youth: The CBASS After-School Apprenticeship Program Toolkit

The Collaborative for Building After-School Systems (CBASS) has released a Toolkit featuring their After School Apprenticeship Program, an innovative out-of-school-time strategy for older youth. Launched in 2008, the After School Apprenticeship Program (ASAP) offers teens eight-week stipend apprenticeships where they learn a craft alongside a master practitioner, followed by six-week paid summer internships where students apply the skills that they have acquired working with younger kids as coaches, umpires, lifeguards and arts instructors.

Guided by the successful [After School Matters](#) (ASM) apprenticeship model, ASAP was developed by [The After-School Corporation](#) (TASC), [Boston After School & Beyond](#) and the [Providence After School Alliance](#), in partnership with the Collaborative for Building After-School Systems (CBASS) and with technical assistance support from ASM. Informed by lessons learned through the ASAP national initiative, the on-line toolkit contains strategies for developing a high-quality apprenticeship programs for high school youth across the country. The toolkit is available through the CBASS website at: <http://www.afterschoolsystems.org/section/asap>. For more information, please contact Emily Morgan, National Policy Coordinator, CBASS at emorgan@tascorp.org or 646-943-8737.

Federal Child Nutrition Funds Supporting School-Age Programs

This document from *Afterschool Investments*, a project of the Federal Administration for Children and Families, provides an overview of three federal nutrition programs that support afterschool programs: the Child and Adult Food Care Program, the National School Lunch Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. The document also explores why afterschool programs generally underutilize some of these federal funding sources. Researchers have identified several barriers to increasing the utilization of federal nutrition funding among school-age programs:



- » *High eligibility threshold* – Programs are eligible to receive the full reimbursement for the snacks and meals they serve only if at least 50 percent of the community’s children are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Other federal school-age programs, such as 21st Century Community Learning Centers, use a 40 percent benchmark.⁷
- » *Low reimbursement rates* – Reimbursement rates for the SFSP, for example, were cut by 10 percent in 1996 and have not been restored. One study found that 73 percent of SFSP sponsors expected to lose money on the program.⁸
- » *Lack of funds for start-up and expansion* – Without start-up funds, which were available until 1996, it is more difficult to recruit new programs and encourage existing programs to serve additional sites.⁹
- » *Administrative requirements* – Programs must manage administrative requirements for separate federal nutrition programs for the children they serve during the school day, afterschool, and in the summer.

The document is available online at: http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/fed_nutrition_funds.html.

Where are the Kids? Key Facts on the Care Arrangements of School-Age Children from Afterschool Investments

This fact sheet provides an overview of the different types of care arrangements for school-age children, with a particular focus on children from low-income families accessing federal funds for school-age programs. The document is intended to help policy makers consider how best to target resources to improve access to quality school-age programs. The following are key findings from national studies on participation in school-age programs:⁴

- » **Parental and relative care are the most common arrangements:** The most common before- and afterschool care arrangement is parental care. During summers, relative care is the most common arrangement.
- » **Many children are unsupervised when school is out:** Over 10 percent of children ages five- twelve spend some time in self-care afterschool and during summers. While during the school year there is little difference in the percentage of low-income and high-income children in self-care, in the summer, children from higher-income families are more likely to spend time in self-care.
- » **Care arrangements vary by age:** Younger children (kindergarten through 5th grade) are more likely than older children (6th through 8th grade) to be in relative care before and after school and in the summer. Older children are more likely than younger children to be in self-care before and after school and in the summer.
- » **Care arrangements vary by demographic factors:** During the school year, African-American children, children from single-parent households, and children whose mothers work full-time are more likely to be in self-care than their counterparts.

The fact sheet is available online at: <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/wherearekids.html>.

National City Afterschool Summit Hosted in April a Success

Nearly 50 municipal and business leaders convened in Washington, D.C., in April for the 2010 National City Afterschool Summit hosted by the National League of Cities’ Institute on Youth, Education, and Families. The Summit provided an opportunity to promote and celebrate local leadership in building citywide systems of high-quality out-of-school time programs. The theme of the summit was “Expanded Learning Opportunities: Strengthening Your City’s Workforce.” Mayors, council members and their business partners participated

in the two-day event to discuss strategies for improving afterschool opportunities and using these programs to prepare youth for the workforce. Throughout the summit, participants discussed strategies to use expanded learning opportunities to provide youth with these critical academic and job skills, build a stronger workforce, support working families and enhance local economic vitality.



Summit participants also joined more than 800 afterschool providers, advocates, and youth for the Afterschool Alliance's 9th Annual Afterschool for All Challenge and an afterschool rally on Capitol Hill. During the Breakfast of Champions, city leaders were honored as afterschool champions for their commitment to afterschool programs in their communities.

The Summit concluded with Mayor's Action Challenge for Children and Families as a Call to Action for mayors and council members to strengthen their efforts to advance afterschool learning opportunities. The Mayors' Action Challenge calls on mayors to set specific, measurable, locally-defined goals or targets in each of the following areas to ensure that every child has: Opportunities to learn and grow; A safe neighborhood to call home; A healthy lifestyle and environment; and A financially fit family in which to thrive. For more information visit, www.mayorsforkids.org.

To read the front page article on the 2010 National City Afterschool Summit in NLC's Nation's Cities Weekly newspaper, click [here](#).

Transcript Available for National League of Cities' March 2010 Audio-conference on Older Youth

The National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families hosted an audioconference on March 25, 2010 entitled, "Using Out-of-School Time Programs for Older Youth to Improve College Access and Workforce Development." Speakers included city staff from Providence, RI and Riverside, CA who discussed the unique role that municipal leaders can play in supporting the out-of-school time programs aimed at ensuring older youth have access to institutions of higher education and are prepared to enter the workforce. National experts from the Collaborative for Building After-School Systems (CBASS) also provided details about a new toolkit featuring their After School Apprenticeship Program, an innovative out-of-school-time strategy for older youth. To download the transcript, as well as transcripts for previous YEF institute audio conferences, please click [here](#).

Funding and Professional Development Opportunities

Mark Your Calendars! Iowa Community Education Association Fall Conference October 14, 2010

The Iowa Community Education Association will hold its Fall Conference this year on October 14, 2010, at the Johnston Public Library. This year's conference is sure to be a valuable one for community educators, afterschool providers, and others. More details on registration will be released soon. For more information, please contact Nancy Buryanek at nburyanek@johnston.k12.ia.us.

Grant Opportunity: Best Buy Children's Foundation

The Best Buy Children's Foundation is offering an array of support through its many

community giving program awards. Through its 15 Community Grants Program, Best Buy teams with local non-profits that help teens excel in school, engage in their communities, and develop leadership skills. The maximum award is \$10,000. Special consideration will be given to programs that serve a diverse population in local or regional communities; build social, academic, leadership, and/or life skills in early adolescents (primarily ages 13-18); show positive results against a demonstrated community need; and reach at-risk children in working families. DEADLINE: July 1 (applications accepted from June 1 to July 1). http://www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/local_donations_rfp.htm



National Endowment for the Arts: Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth

The [NEA Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth Program](#) funds projects that help children and youth acquired appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of and skills in the arts. Projects must provide participatory learning and engagement of students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art, and ensure the application of national, state, or local arts education standards. Deadline: June 10

My Idea Grants

[America's Promise Alliance](#) and [AT&T](#) are looking for the energy, enthusiasm, creativity and commitment to help make this country a [Grad Nation](#) through the [My Idea grants program](#). My Idea will empower young people to examine the high school dropout crisis and take action to help more of their peers to graduate on time - improving outcomes for themselves and their community. National grants of \$10,000 - \$20,000 will be awarded to youth for the best of the submitted ideas to help increase a community's graduation rate anywhere in the United States. Additional opportunities are available for young people living in Chicago, Houston, Indianapolis, Jackson, Louisville, Nashville, New York, New Orleans, Oakland and Washington DC. Deadline: June 11

The American Honda Foundation

[The American Honda Foundation](#) provides grants in the fields of youth education and scientific education. Educational institutions, including K-12, college and universities, community colleges and trade schools are eligible, as well as nonprofit organizations and other foundations. Deadline: August 1

The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation

[The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation](#) welcomes opportunities to work in partnership with other foundations and support collaborations that are directly inspiring these children to hope and dream; enabling their potential to emerge and grow through quality education; encouraging positive behaviors and providing access to basic health care and services for life-long vitality; and fostering stable family environments in which they can thrive. The Foundation seeks to fund projects that directly serve or impact children living in urban poverty, particularly in the areas of education, childhood health and family economic stability. Deadline: Rolling

Promise Neighborhoods Program

On April 30, 2010, the U.S. Department of Education officially launched the [Promise Neighborhoods program](#). The Promise Neighborhoods program is the first federal initiative

to put education at the center of comprehensive efforts to fight poverty in both urban and rural areas. The \$10 million in grants available this fiscal year will support non-profit organizations with one year of funding to plan for the implementation of cradle-to-career services designed to improve educational outcomes for students within distressed neighborhoods. The U.S. Department of Education intends to make up to 20 planning grants, ranging between \$400,000 and \$500,000, with [applications due June 25, 2010](#). President Obama's Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposal includes \$210 million for five-year implementation grants and more one-year planning grants. Click [here](#) to read the U.S. Department of Education's [press release](#) on the Promise Neighborhoods program.



You can find the Promise Neighborhoods application and other resources here: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html>.

Reminder

As we continue our work in promoting afterschool programs, below are words from a famous figure to remind us why we do the work we do.

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to never stop questioning."

- Albert Einstein